

The Monthly A.C.E

***The Official Bulletin of the Association of Clandestine
Radio Enthusiasts***

Since 1982 • July, 2002

TIRED OF BORING PIRATE DXING???



TRY HAM RADIO!!!

The Managing Editor's Page

By Harry Helms

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As you can see, there are no columns this month Bud Stacey or George Zeller. Oh, they gave me some lame excuses, but we know the real reason why. . . . *World Cup fever!!!!*

From the National Radio Club (a club specializing in AM band DX) mailing list comes word of a pirate operating on 530 kHz in the Boston area. Marc DeLorenzo of Marston, MA says it is heard along Route 3 between Sagamore and Quincy, peaking near exit 15 in Hingham; he also says it's strong in Quincy. Programming is in apparent Creole, with Caribbean-style songs and jazz. Are any of you in the area—yes, I mean you Lobdell!—hearing it?

Frederick Moe did another kick-ass job this month with "Random Transmissions." While the Mojave Phone Booth is now but a memory, there is a potential replacement along California highway 190, between Death Valley Junction and Furnace Creek Ranger Station in Death Valley. There's a facility just inside the park boundary with toilets, picnic tables, and a pay phone! I've driven by it several times but never stopped to get the phone number (or to see if it's one that can accept incoming calls). That might make a suitable replacement for the late Mojave National Preserve phone booth. . . .

Another great job by the editors this month! Why not send them a report for the next issue?

FRN THE FREE RADIO NETWORK

"Pirate Radio Invades the World Wide Web!"



- ✓ Audio Clips
- ✓ Photos
- ✓ QSLs
- ✓ The ACE
- ✓ Chat
- ✓ News
- ✓ The Grapevine
- ✓ Over 1000 Links

DIALOGS July 2002

Lee Reynolds, 53 Unity Springs Road, Lempster, NH 03605-3130

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ICQ# 60166326/4139354

(Next deadline for submissions: July 22nd, 2002)

LATE LOGS

WHYP

- 05/22/02, 0153-0219+, 6951A (JS-NE 322)

FROM ACROSS THE POND

Alfa Lima International (Hoogeveen)

- 06/02/02, 0037-0054*, 15070A – mx – rock. Host Alfred thanking listeners in EE for tuning in and signing off. (RD-PA)(JS-NE 211)
- 06/17/02, 0308-0415+, 15070A – mx – "If I Were A Carpenter," "Tears Of A Clown," "The Question." (JS-NE 222)

NORTH/SOUTH AMERICAN LOGGINGS

Betty Boop Radio (Providence)

- 06/05/02, 0134-0205*, 6925A – mx – "I Want To Be Loved By You," "Good Ship Lollipop," "Chattanooga Choo-Choo." Betty and her cousin Mae sing for us. Tiny Tim sings a song in memory of Sonny Bono and Michael Kennedy. Rollo Verndigh is our host. (AF 423)(JS-NE 322)

Captain Morgan (FRN)

- 05/30/02, 0152-0227*, 6950A – mx – "Time Passages," "All I Want To Do." Twilight Zone theme bridging tunes. Clips of TV show theme tunes. (AF 322)(JS-NE 211)
- 06/01/02, 0448-0552*, 6950A – mx – Rolling Stones, Al Stewart, Steppenwolf. More "Twilight Zone" bridging. (JS-NE 222)

Ground Zero Radio (gzrsw@emailx.net)

- 05/26/02, 0200-0232*, 6950U – mx – "Die Walkure," "Duck And Cover." BRS drop given, several skits. Memorial Day program. Homage to our fallen heroes and to those who still serve. Says QSLs for the past two shows are on their way. (AF 322)(MT-WI 122)(JS-NE 433)
- 05/26/02, 0350-0419*, 6955U – repeat of earlier show. (AF 322)(JS-NE 333)
- 05/26/02, 0620-0649, 6950U – mx – same as at 0200. Dramatic skit, astrology readings for Scorpio. (WH-IL 144)
- 05/27/02, 0138, 6950U – mx – same two as before. (WH-IL 133)
- 05/27/02, 0200-0211*, 6955U – mx – slow rock. Discussion of research on personality, Dave Gunn giving BRS drop at signoff. (GZ-OH 252)

KRMI (krmi6955@yahoo.com)

- 06/07/02, 0243-0305*, 6955U mx – Andrews Sisters, Vera Lynn. Show dedicated to D-Day. Churchill and Roosevelt speeches. (AF 232)(JS-NE 323)
- 06/07/02, 0315, 6927U – repeat of earlier show. (AF 232)

Oxycontin Radio (Maybe Belfast. Maybe.)

- 06/07/02, 0053-0112+, 6953A – mx – smooth. Crunche-style tunes and the slogan "Drugs that make Sense!" (AF 422)(Pse QSL JS-NE 211)

Radio Bingo (radiobingo@chek.com)

- 05/23/02, 0329-0355*, 6955A – playing the orange card tonight, JTA is the big winner! Jimmy Da Weasel and George Zeller clips. (JS-NE 322)

- 06/03/02, 0042-0114+, 6955A – mx – Jimmy Da Weasel doing a medley of his greatest hit – “God Damn You.” A bingo game and an appearance by Sal Ammoniac. (GZ-OH 232)

Shadow Radio (the_shadow6950@hotmail.com)

- 06/08/02, 0320-0355+, 6950U – mx – “American Pie” parody followed by theme from “Star Wars.” Scenes from “Star Wars?” (JS-NE 211)

Sycko Radio (None)

- 05/22/02, 0313-0334+, 6955U – mx – rap, hip-hop. Electronic sound effects, some talk, alternative mx then a string of Sycko IDs. Technical problems with modulation. (MT-WI 132)(JS-NE)
- 06/23/02, 0453-0459+, 6950U – mx – Yes. A live show with an electronic female guest who flatters him disgracefully. Spoof sponsorship ad or two. (AF 233)(LR-NH 323)

The Voice of Laryngitis (Belfast, but probably just a rerun of an old show)

- 06/09/02, *0207-0318*, 6953A – possibly the first new show in a long while. Barking seal IS throughout the transmission. Stanley and Genghis Huxley are your hosts. Sponsorship by Friendly Freddie’s Budget Burials, Bull Bruiser our roving reporter. An alien autopsy is performed. (GZ-OH 454)(FM-NH 444)(WS-TN 232)(MT-WI 233)(JS-NE 433)

The Voice of the New World Order (vonwoun@yahoo.com)

- 06/01/02, 0255-0301*, 6955U – mx – Mike and the Mechanics. The sound of helicopter blades outside the window. (AF 221)

United Patriot Militia Bingo (Merlin)

- 06/03/02, 0147-0215+, 6926A – “Man on the Run” show. (AF 322)(JS-NE 222)

WAMP (Unknown)

- 06/10/02, 0031-0115*, 6950L – mx – Abba. Clips of Jay Smilkstein, host is Uncle Schleckstein, loop of station ID being given phonetically. Weiner fixations. (AF 334)(LR-NH 545)

WBZO (Unknown)

- 06/09/02, 0458-0536*, 6955A – mx – parodies. Captain Ganja, mention of the “riff-raff” at the FRN, talk about the Judge at the Mount Kisco A&P, something about contacting Mr. Bozo. (AF 322)(Pse QSL JS-NE)

WHYP (Providence)

- 05/31/02, 0140-0144+, 6950A – repeat of old show favorite clips. (AF 444)(JS-NE 322)
- 06/01/02, 0107-0151*, 6950A – interview with Jay, cameo IDs of various Pirates, news on the Brownyard Croquet Invitational. (AF 422)(GZ-OH 353)
- 06/04/02, 0203-0234, 6925A – mx – James Brown. Radio or girlfriend? (JS-NE 323)
- 06/09/02, 0046-0238*, 6953A – mx – rock, James Brown. Temperatures for Lake Erie environs, Sal Ammoniac a guest in the studio, a poll as to whether listeners would rather have a radio or a woman, ending commentary by the fab marvy George Zeller. Bozo clips, Sal Ammoniac assisting. (GZ-OH 353)(MT-WI 233)(JS-NE 222)
- 06/23/02, 0124-0157*, 6953A – mx – John Fogerty. JB is back after an extended road trip for romance and the sickness caused by a deadly hamburger proffered by a young lady’s father. (AF 433)

WMFQ (Providence)

- 05/25/02, 0120-0200, 6955A – mx – Beatlesque parodies. Announced Providence drop. (WH-IL 132)

WMNM (FRN – if I remember correctly – been a while since we’ve heard this one!)

- 06/22/02, 0357, 6953A – mx – rap. Bought to you by WHYP. Bozo clip. (AF 433)

WMPR (None)

- 06/18/02, 0008-0020+, 6955A – mx – rock, not the usual techno. (JS-NE)

WRAF (FRN)

- 05/23/02, 0357-0406, 6925A – mx – “Higher Love,” “White Rabbit.” Poor copy on announcer. (JS-NE)

TENTATIVE/UNIDENTIFIED

UNID

- 05/27/02, 0013-0021*, 6950A – mx – all 40’s style, one number sounding like a variant of Cab Calloway’s “Minnie the Moocher” (he did write a follow up song to MiM, actually – sounds very similar. Lee) No IDs, no talk. (GZ-OH 353).
- 06/03/02, 0247+, 6972A – voice and mx, poor copy. CW ID? KMUD? (JS-NE 211)
- 06/09/02, 0609-0636+, 6955A – mx – “FM,” “Deacon Blue,” “Black Friday.” Poor copy on annncr. WBZO? (JS-NE 211)

CONTRIBUTORS/PLEASE QSL

Al Fansome (AF)

Rich D’Angelo, 2216 Burkey Drive, Wyomissing, PA 19610
William Hassig, 102 North Russell Street, Mount Prospect, IL 60056 (WH-IL)
Frederick Moe, 36 West Main Street, Warner, NH 03278 (FM-NH)
Lee Reynolds, 53 Unity Springs Road, Lempster, NH 03605-3130 (LR-NH)
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Woody Smith, P.O. Box 52823, Knoxville, TN 37950 (WS-TN)
Mark Taylor, 1114 Ellen Avenue, Madison, WI 53716 (MT-WI)
George Zeller, 3492 West 123rd Street, Cleveland, OH 44111 (GZ-OH)

TEN YEARS AFTER...

Lessee now – everyone was mostly around 7415 as they had been for quite some time, RFM bucked the trend by showing up on 15051, AM was the mode of choice but DC Radio showed up running a CW loop.

This column had no less than 17 contributors that month! (Amazing – best we’ve done in the last year and a half might be a dozen, maybe 13, more usually 11 or so – my sincere thanks to those of you that do send in logs!) The fab marvy George Zeller was contributing, the Grays hadn’t yet abducted Pat Murphy and Kirk Baxter so we saw loggings from them too.

One station active back then was good ol’ CSIC – the station with a chicken fetish! Every 50th report got the sender a genuine rubber chicken in return as a QSL. Pirate Radio Boston was relayed by CSIC and Jolly Roger Radio was to be heard as well. The only downside of all this was that some stations were busy playing “Stairway to Heaven” and one brave soul (PRB) played “Brand New Key” by Melanie. Could be worse – at least nobody was flogging Pink Floyd to death this time ‘round!

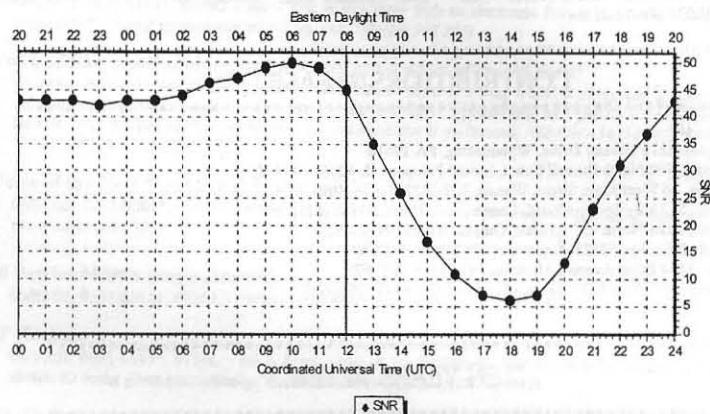
RAMBLINGS

Well, been doing more noise source hunting in the household (needed to get a decent recording of WWVB down on 60kHz and LF/VLF is always very sensitive to noise sources of any kind!) Ye gods, I have to make up a checklist of stuff to turn off before the location (which is isolated in the countryside) finally becomes radio-quiet. Number one offender on LF is the television set – as is to be expected. Fortunately it doesn’t need to be unplugged before it finally shuts up – just turned off. The other three major noise sources are the laser printer, inkjet printer and network switches for the computers in the shack. All needed to be unplugged from the wall, powering down wasn’t enough because the circuitry in them was still honking away at RF frequencies. The message in this tale is that you should unplug a suspected noise source – not just turn it off – because it can still be messing up your reception otherwise!

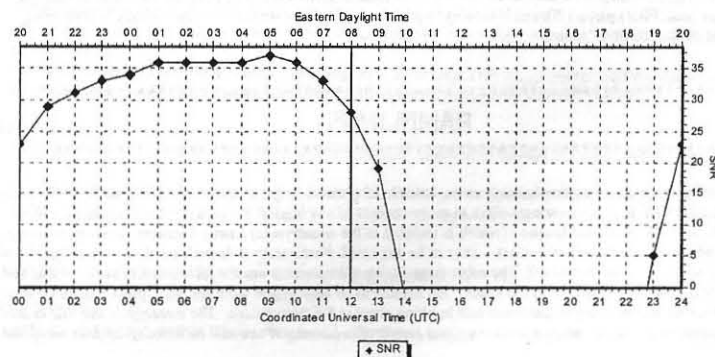
While on the subject of noise, reception conditions have definitely been less than great lately. Between the seemingly continuous static of lightning storms and blackouts caused by solar activity, listening has been a bit of a chore – I’ve noticed it and a number of correspondents have commented upon it. This month (mid-April to mid-June) has shown a marked decline in both Pirate activity and reception reports with conditions probably being at least a part of the reason. Oh well, only three months until better weather and better radio listening return!

PROPAGATION

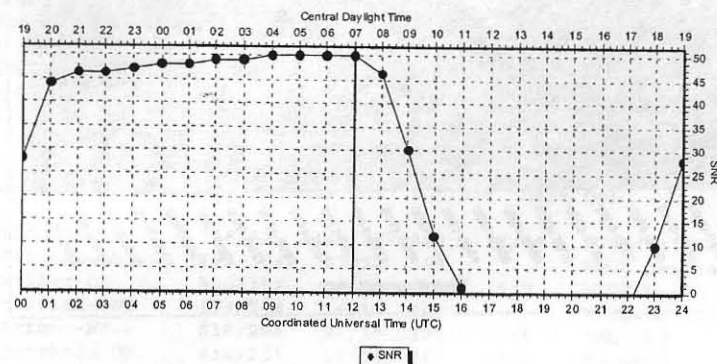
Philadelphia to W0 - Kansas City, USA, SP, Jul 2002, SSN: 89, Noise: Residential area
Power: 100W, Min Angle: 0.1, Required Reliability: 90%, Required S/N: 44.0
6.90 MHz



Philadelphia to W6 - Los Angeles, USA, SP, Jul 2002, SSN: 89, Noise: Residential area
Power: 100W, Min Angle: 0.1, Required Reliability: 90%, Required S/N: 44.0
6.90 MHz



Kansas City to W6 - Los Angeles, USA, SP, Jul 2002, SSN: 89, Noise: Residential area
Power: 100W, Min Angle: 0.1, Required Reliability: 90%, Required S/N: 44.0
6.90 MHz

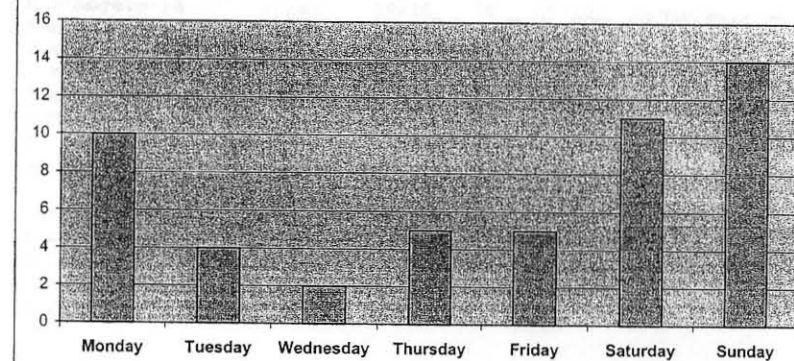


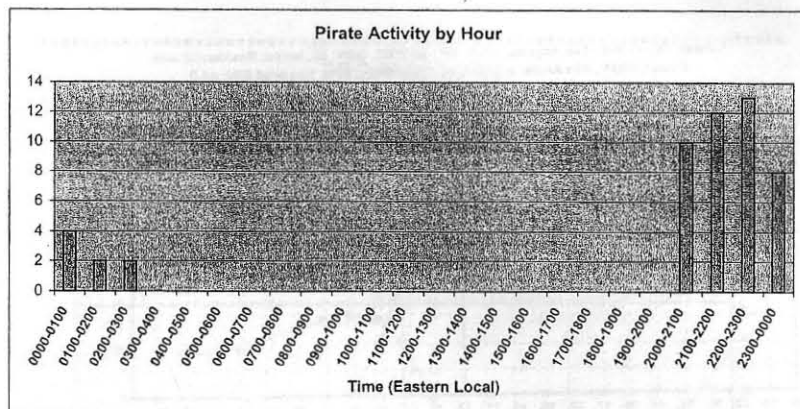
STATISTICS

In our never-ending search to add member value to this fine periodical I decided to do what any good modern-day editor would do and start speculating wildly with insufficient data. A few readers have expressed interest in getting Pirate data in a form that suggests the day(s) and time(s) that activity is likeliest. I figured it couldn't hurt and hey, what the heck, maybe the FCC would offer me a cushy, well-paid job opening those powder-laden envelopes they get sent or something. Anyways, I sat down at the computer, fired up Evil Bill's Excel spreadsheet and started punching keys...

These graphs don't guarantee that a Pirate will be on the air if you choose the busiest day and cross-reference that with the busiest hour, but they do show when operators have most often been logged on the air in the past month or so. Hmm, then, again, maybe it just shows when Pirate listeners are actually listening? (Nah, I know some of these folks have their radio on practically 24x7!)

Pirate Activity by Day





VERIED RESPONSE

Chris Lobdell
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Stoneham, MA 02180
EMAIL: clobdell@attbi.com

NEXT COLUMN DEADLINE: July 19th

First of all, my sincerest apologies for not listing the new email in my last month's column!! I had computer problems and lost the most recent column and cut and pasted from an older one which had the incorrect address.

Things are a little bit light this time around as is pirate activity but we will be running the Free Radio Stats as well. Don't forget to update your info for the next run!!!

UNITED PATRIOT MILITIA BINGO. Full data card in 3.5 months.
[Smith-NC]

WRAF-RADIO AL FANSOME. Full data "Rabbit Target #11" sheet along with a recipe for "Rabbit Coq au Vin" in 5 days via the mail for an email report from a secret address supplied by Pig Meat. Thanks to both. [Sedlacek-NE]
Hnnnnnnnnnn, I guess the recipe must be an attack on Commander Bunny!

Thanks to both Woody Smith and John Sedlacek for their contributions.

Free Radio Statistics

formerly: The Scoreboard

KEY:

NAM = North American Pirate QSLs, to include Canada
For = Foreign Pirate QSLs, outside NAM
dif = number of different stations represented
Tot = total different Pirate QSLs, NAM + For

name-state	--pirates--			-cland-		best QSL
	NAM/dif	For/dif	Tot	tot/dif		
R Brandt-DL	146/82	1363/787	869	16/10		KTVI/VotRock
J Filipkowski-RI	695/334	37/32	366			KMOM panties
G Zeller-OH	500/352	10/10	362	8/8		WHBH bust
N Wolfish-ONT	459/294	14/10	304			R Condor Intl
J Arthur-NY	518/280	22/18	298	4/4		SML Ltd
T Provance-OH	430/251	21/16	267	14/11		Vo Acid
E Cronkright-MI	227/227	9/9	236			KAT
E Rausch-NJ	266/201	22/17	218			LvdMTiempo/
ArgosyMag						
R Pfaff-VA	198/192	21/21	213			R Amazonia beercan
P Murphy-VA	248/196	19/15	211			CSIC chicken
C Smolinski-MD	180/152	21/15	201	2/2		VoVoyager bust
J Coatsworth-ONT	213/173	26/20	193			KMOM
R Ross-ONT	200+/151	35/26	177	50/37		KIWI
C Crawford-KY	290/156	2/2	158			Car Show
E Kusalik-ALTA	185/116	26/24	148	103/64		Anteater license
plt						
R Hunsicker-PA	201/138	2/2	140			WPN mug
B Stacey-AL	262/136	2/2	138			Zepplin R WW
R.Comeau-MA	115/	22/	137			Partial India
Radio						
Y Lewis-IL	178/112	20/12	124			JRR - 6229
C Lobdell-MA	90/75	29/27	102			R Mi Amigo
J Rose-VA	189/93	11/7	100			R Korak Intl
J McWilliams-PA	121/79	15/13	92			XEROX
A Spremo-NY	138/83	13/8	91	1/1		all of them
S Gentry-IL	129/77	6/3	80			KMCR
R D'Angelo-PA	69/63	18/15	78	29/27		HeMan R
S Rogovich-VA	56/52	2/2	54			R Clandestine
V Havrilko-FL	56/39	14/12	51			R USA
S Foehner-NY	54/34		34			WORK
C Harkins-ONT	46/29		29			WGLR
C Wooten-GA	16/13		13			
C Cuomo-PA	11/10		10			
H Short-MA?	10/9		9			R Garbanzo

Kindly update your totals for inclusion and mail them to: ACE Stats, PO Box 146, Stoneham, MA 02180 or via email: clobdell@attbi.com
Please note that the ACE Stats are *only* available to A*C*E members!

PIRATE CDS FOR SALE

Your editor is pleased to announce that I have two pirate CDs for sale. Both are mastered from studio tapes and are recorded in the mp3 format:

RADIO AZTECA - SHOWS 1 thru 25. Hear Bram from his humble beginnings in 1992 to his "gross but tasteful" best!

K2000 - THE COMPLETE COLLECTION. All shows known to be in existence plus some comedy material never used is on this CD in what has to be the best pirate of the 1990s. Includes 8 programs with Bob Rock and his satire, poking fun at those in the DXing/Pirate Hobby.

Each CD is \$7.00 each postpaid in North America or \$11.00 elsewhere.

Payment in cash or money order payable in US funds to my address listed on the column masthead. Own a piece of pirate history today.

RANDOM TRANSMISSIONS

by Frederick Moe

36 West Main Street
Warner NH 03278
singinngrove@conknet.com

KMUD's Pirate Radio Adventures at the Mojave Phone Booth

The Mojave Phone Booth was a phone booth that rang 24 hours per day, 7 days a week, month after month, year after year, with people calling from all over the planet with the hope that someone, anyone, would answer the most remote phone booth on Earth. Installed shortly after World War II at the request of local miners, the phone booth was miles from civilization, deep in the desert near Death Valley. For more than fifty years it was the most curious landmark in a wild and desolate area of the Mojave National Preserve until it was removed by park officials in May 2000.

On March 20, 2000 an adventurous and enthusiastic crew from KMUD descended on the Mojave Phone Booth for a historic pirate shortwave broadcast from the site. The phone booth had been publicized in the media in the past including the Art Bell radio talk show. One of the KMUD operators that evening called the Art Bell show and spoke with guest host Peter Weissbach. KMUD was allowed to give the time / frequency for their broadcast but not the phone number (which was 760-733-9969). However, the phone number was well known and also available on the internet, setting the stage for a live pirate call-in show transmitted by KMUD on 6851 and 3450 kHz.

KMUD crew members spent three days and two nights in the Mojave National Preserve and recall the weekend as being perfect for their activities. Careful planning had gone into the technical arrangements. Antennas were erected & transmitter equipment finely tuned. The batteries were charged and ready to go. An audio pickup and mixer were connected to the phone. Wires and cables were everywhere.

Everything seemed to work like a charm. No park rangers visited the phone booth that weekend and definitely no one from the Federal Communications Corporation. After half an hour of testing, KMUD signed on with Art Bell's "The Chase" theme. The signal went out in AM mode with about 20 watts of carrier power. A CD of wolf calls played atmospherically in the background as the KMUD crew interviewed callers on the air. The effect worked beautifully - no one seemed to notice that coyotes, not wolves, are native to the desert.

KMUD's broadcast consisted of callers, some music and station IDs, and the announcers encouraging listeners to call the phone booth. An interesting woman caller suggested that the Mojave Phone Booth was drawing its power from UFOs held at "Area 51" in Nevada. Two callers, who had been apprised of the KMUD broadcast, reported on reception conditions. Two reporters from Canadian television arrived at the phone booth just prior to the KMUD broadcast. They interviewed the KMUD operators before the show & taped them fielding phone calls. This must have been a first - shortwave radio pirates broadcasting live interviewed by television journalists.

One woman who called during the weekend was an official with a Zurich-based financial institution. She called from St. Moritz, where she was facilitating a seminar for corporate CEO's. Several weeks earlier, the woman had been touring the desert and happened upon the phone booth and found it ringing. She answered some calls and learned all about the booth's story. After returning to Switzerland, she called the booth herself during the weekend of the seminar. She and the KMUD crew members made arrangements for them to place a collect call in the middle of the night from the Mojave Desert to Switzerland. During that second call, a special discussion seminar was held via telephone for the CEO's who doubted the booth existed. Unfortunately, neither of these calls was relayed on the air since one occurred before broadcast time and the other after KMUD had signed off for the evening.

I am grateful to the participants for sharing their experiences and reflections regarding this extraordinary story. The events of KMUD Mojave Phone booth weekend could be woven into a much longer article, probably even a book. The broadcast was well documented on audio and video. It is not clear how many people heard the broadcast live but those who did were audio witnesses to pirate radio history. The beautiful and captivating Mojave environment was a natural setting for this fascinating weekend of KMUD broadcasting - people connecting with other people, their voices shimmering through the ether, the power of radio bringing them all together.

Covert Comms

By Tom Sevart

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Frontenac, KS 66763-2440
n2uhc@yahoo.com



Last month I reported that the V13 "New Star" station had announced a mailing address as well as an email address. It looks as if the email address no longer works. Mail to w2789@hotmail.com bounces. A reception report sent to that address came back with a message saying the mailbox is unavailable. The interesting thing is that this account closed down in a short amount of time after New Star gave the announcements including this address.

Last month I also speculated as to why New Star would give an announcement asking for listener comments. After all, this numbers station has been active for many years now, and to read an announcement giving an email and snail mail address seems strange. The fact that the email address no longer works adds to the mystery.

Could it be possible that Taiwan intelligence lost contact with an agent, and this is a ruse to have the agent send an email to let them know he's OK? Or is it a method to get all agents to check in? This is highly unlikely, as Chinese intelligence would have intercepted the email announcement, and having one or all of your agents suddenly send email to you (which is

easily traceable) would give them away. Even sending a letter to the announced address would be risky. It would even be risky for any Chinese citizen to send a letter to the station requesting a QSL. The Chinese government and the citizenry are very suspicious of everyone. Someone sending a letter to a broadcast station the government knows is used for intelligence work would surely result in an arrest & imprisonment.

Since the email address is down, we are only left with the mailing address of P.O. Box 12587, Taipei, Taiwan. So far I haven't heard of anyone receiving any replies to mail sent to this address. This is probably your best bet to receive a QSL, if in fact they decide to issue them. I've been trying to hear New Star again in order to send them a reception report, but I haven't been able to catch them on their 8300 or 13750 frequencies. I don't know if it's due to propagation or if the station has not been active on these freqs.

Another story that's been circulating recently is the fact that some video feeds from US reconnaissance aircraft was broadcast *in the clear* over communications satellites, which was picked up in Europe by viewers with satellite dishes. The video purported to show UN troops, including US military personnel, on the ground in Bosnia.

A satellite TV viewer in England, John Locker, stated that he had first picked up the live feeds in November. He had since been trying to alert the US and allied militaries, but nobody was listening. Locker finally went public with the information.

According to NATO and US military spokesmen, the video feeds are unclassified and contain no useful information to a potential enemy.

While the video may not necessarily give away any information, they do certainly give away the capabilities of the US military to spy on ground targets. The video, from P-3 aircraft and Hunter unmanned drones, show that the US has the capability to spy on targets about 20 miles away through cloud cover at night.

You would think that the US military would be using secure, encrypted satellite links instead of an unencrypted link that could be watched all over Europe. On the other hand, intercepting this video may be as innocuous as milcom listeners listening to USAF comms on 11175. I'm sure if the media got wind of how some SWL's listen to military freqs, they'd probably be making as big a deal out of it.

The movie *Windtalkers* is due out soon. This movie portrays the use of the Navajo language by the US military to thwart codebreaking efforts during World War II. I haven't seen the movie yet but plan to. The Army recruited soldiers from Navajo reservations who were used to pass information in their native language. According to a documentary on the subject last year on the History Channel, the codetalkers had devised their own code within the Navajo language. Thus, when the Japanese had captured a Navajo soldier (who wasn't a code talker) in order to try to break the code, he was unable to figure out what the code talkers were saying. The method provided secure communications for the US military that were never broken during the war.

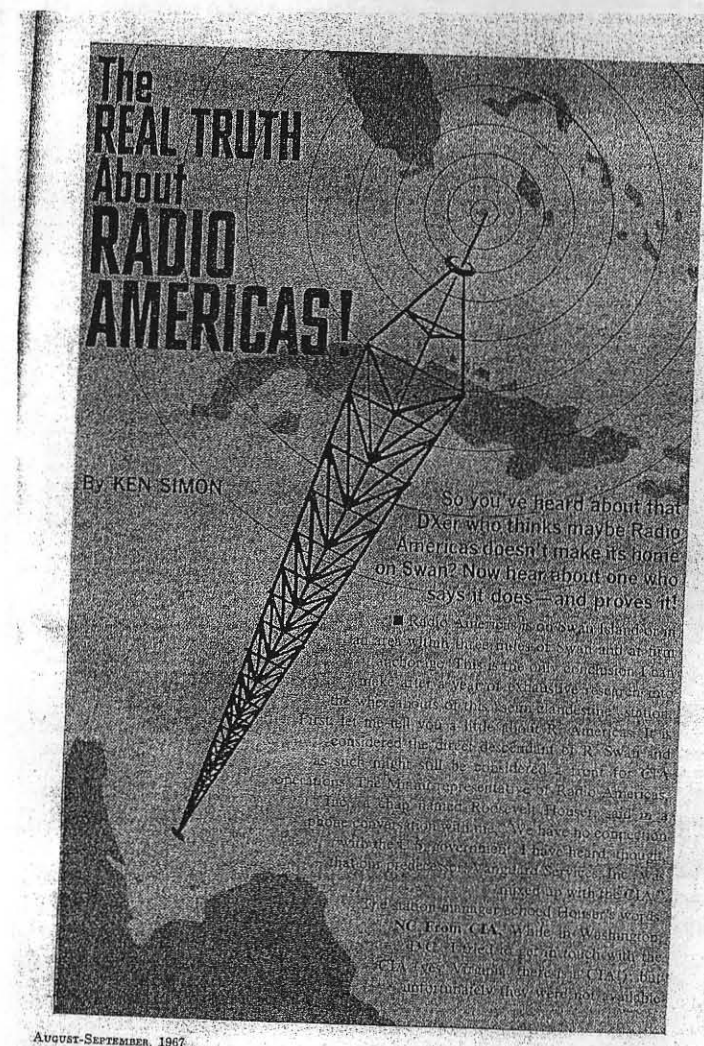
See you next month.

Join the ACE Pirate Radio Mailing List!

The ACE Pirate Radio Mailing List is a free e-mail list moderated by ACE publisher Harry Helms. Exchange pirate radio DX tips, discuss people and personalities, get advance notice of pirate operations! To join, just send a BLANK e-mail to:

PirateRadio-subscribe@topica.com

ANOTHER BLAST FROM THE PAST ABOUT THE LEGENDARY CLANDESTINE STATION, RADIO AMERICAS...



RADIO AMERICAS

for comment. Now (if we are to believe some rumor mills) I'm probably being shadowed and my mail watched.

And besides all that the Americas people have a commercial rate card. They accept advertising at the rate of \$24 per 60-second spot, single insertion. The hourly rate is \$175, single insertion. Their studios are located in Miami, or, more properly, in Coral Gables, Fla., at 101 Madeira Ave.—Zip Code 33134. I know this to be a fact because I was there.

According to the station manager, all programs are done in Miami, except the news, which, using the various shortwave frequencies of the UPI's Latin American wire, is produced on Swan itself. I'll have to take his word for this since he didn't offer me a trip to Swan (though I tried).

Their mailing address is Apartado (Box) Postal 352, Miami, Fla. They announce this on their one frequency which I measure at about 1157 kc (oops! kHz). They actually vary between 1155 and 1165 kHz. They formerly used 6 MHz in the 49-meter international shortwave band, but this was discontinued in late September of 1966.

This fact was "proof" that the station was located in Yucatan to one well-known SWL, since a hurricane devastated Yucatan during that period, not Swan. But the station manager had a slightly better answer. He told me the transmitter, an RCA job putting out 7.5 kw, had simply hit the point of no return. It was just costing too much to keep repairing a rig that wasn't paying off. If you figure listeners' mail as a response, then this 6-MHz operation just wasn't pulling its own share. Let's face it, SWLs were not Radio Americas' prime, or even secondary, target, so farewell 6 MHz!

Castro? Carrambal. R. Americas (and I think this is no secret) aims for the anti-Castro Spanish-speaking crowd. They even go so far as to announce "La Voz de la Verdad para Todo el Continente." If your high-school Spanish is a little rusty that means, "The Voice of Truth for All the Continent."

By the way, if you haven't heard this station and would like to get a QSL from them, send a report of what went on during their 1157-kHz transmission for any ten-minute period to the address above. This broadcast

can be heard almost anywhere on the East coast of the U.S. and should be audible except near Chicago, where WJLB spews forth 50 kw on 1160 kHz, and around Salt Lake City, where KSL booms 30 kw on 1160. In Florida, both are audible, along with Swan and a multitude of jammers.

The jammers tend to make R. Americas unique as it is the only station that the Bearded One has felt need to award more than one jammer. On an average day Ronald Schatz, a DXer from Miami (now in the U.S. Navy), has spotted up to 10 jammers putting forth noise from 1155 to 1165 kHz. This raucous racket has been described by one broadcast engineer as "FM noise," though another observer says it's more like "YEECH!"

Besides jamming Americas, Fidel's jammers (no, you can't get a QSL from a jammer!) add background fun and noise to:

WGWS	710	Miami, Fla.
WWL	870	New Orleans, La.
WMIE	1140	Miami, Fla.
	1180	VOA in the Keys
WKWF	1600	Key West, Fla.

All in all, 1100-1200 is bad for any kind of DXing, and this is to say nothing of what it does to your ears.

The great anti-Castro clandestine station, "Radio Libertad, La Voz Anti-Comunista," heard on 1404 kHz in Puerto Rico, is not jammed. This struck me as strange (actually, I was going to say a bit more about Radio Libertad . . . their postal address is blocks from my house in Miami Beach, Fla. . . . but it seems it's against postal regulations to reveal a box holder's name).

Aero and Ham. As another way of logging Swan Island that nobody will dispute, try the FAA stations. The Miami FAA supplied the following information:

Station	Frequency (kHz)	Notes
WSG	3329	
	5945	RTTY
	9840	
WSG	2738	AM phone ship-to-shore emergency channel, also daily weather forecast at 1700 GMT
SWA	407	Aero beacon

All these are low-powered, but I am sure they will fill in a prepared QSL sent to En-

RADIO-TV EXPERIMENTER

gineering Department, FAA-Miami, Miami International Airport, Wilcox Field, Miami, Fla.

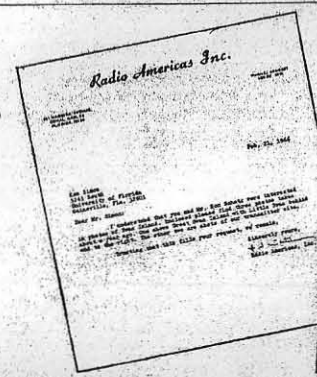
Also, Hams abound on Swan or KS4 land. KS4CB, KS4CC, and KS4CD are operating on Swan using a 150-watt Allied T-150 and a 500-watt Galaxy F for CW and SSB transmissions—all this according to P.M. Holebrook, ex-KS4CA, just back from the Swan where he and KS4CB, CC, and CD work as technicians for (I have a feeling this is gonna be hard to believe) R. Americas! All will QSL, and all have listings in the Callbook.

Holebrook says that anyone who worked him as KS4CA and didn't get a QSL can QSL him through WA9OVE. He also says

nitrate content used in making munitions. This certificate passed from hand to hand till the U.S. "sorta" owned the island. This is somewhat like the British on Falkland Islands which the Argentine Government claims. But as a professor of international relations once said, "So what are they going to do about it?"

The ECC doesn't license the station, either. (So look at the money R. Americas has saved!) Also, they don't have to give the other side equal time. (Imagine giving equal time to Fidel!) One of his "short" speeches lasted 4 hours!

But back from philosophizing to some physical proof. Gordon Nelson and Bob



Though there is no Radio Swan these days, its direct descendant—R. Americas—is where R. Swan always was, says the author: namely, on Swan Island. Letter to author from R. Americas' Florida studio included photos of Swan (technically called "Great Swan Island," since a second island, thought to be uninhabited, is known as "Little Swan") as well as the R. Americas' transmitter site. Ham QSL card (below) is that of P. M. Holebrook, a former technician for R. Americas.



he is tired of all "controversy" over Americas. "It's on Swan Island, and that's all there is to that."

I think Holebrook qualifies as an eye witness.

The political implications of a Swan location also add up. Swan's ownership is questionable. Honduras says it owns it, though it's been a while since Honduras sent a government official to the island to check on its holdings (like about 100 years). The U.S. is there by virtue of guano (more commonly called bird droppings).

Birds Yet. It seems Lincoln's Secretary of State Seward issued a certificate for the island proclaiming it was a guano island. No one questioned Seward's ability to spot a guano island when he saw one, and during the Civil War the North needed guano for its

Keene, both top rate BCB DXers, took direction bearings on the station over a period of weeks from Boston and Houston, respectively. The results, computed by Nelson on a computer, show a square about 25 miles with a lot of water in it and, of course, Swan. This matches the comparative bearings Schatz took on the station and a few others near by. In short, R. Americas is either smack on Swan or it's on a nifty little sub or maybe a flying saucer of sorts that's but a stone's throw away.

The final proof comes to me in the form of three photos sent by the chief engineer (see letter above). They match with a map of the island found and Xeroxed by Schatz in the New York Public Library.

And if you want a final final reason, it's this: my mother thinks I'm right!

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Some of you veteran DXers will remember Ken Simon (a.k.a. "Nek Nomis"), who has bounced around the radio hobby for years. Note the flat-out lie by Roosevelt Houser on the first page; the CIA has since admitted that it was behind Radio Swan/Americas from the beginning.

the ASSOCIATION of CLANDESTINE radio ENTHUSIASTS

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